

GEEKFEST 2016 • EYLOF'S MINI FURMEET

FURRY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN FURS



CONFUZZLED 2016 • ANTHROCULTURE
FURRY HUMOUR • ZOOTOPIA • W-T-FUR?
FURRY PERSPECTIVES
FURSCIENCE REVIEW
FEATURED ARTIST: LANCE-VERITY

ISSUE 1 - SEPT 2016

ISSN PENDING



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R560

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FURRY TIMES™

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN FURS

ISSN PENDING

VOLUME 1 EDITION SEPTEMBER 2016

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PRE-RELEASE REVIEW

MISCELLANY

Front Cover: YoteFox (Gauteng, RSA)

Comic by: Electropaw Artworks

Inside back cover: EF 21 Parade

Back Cover: ZEIGLER 🐾 @ZeiglerJaguar

CONFUZZLED 2016



GEEKFEST 2016



WHY WE LOVED ZOOTOPIA



OUR COVER FURRY



Put your paws together for YoteFox, from Gauteng, featured on the cover of this edition. YoteFox is also a very capable fursuit maker (see advertisement inside front cover)

CONFUZZLED 2016: CON ATTENDANCE- THE DREAM OF EVERY MEMBER OF ANY FANDOM

TO HAVE FACE TIME WITH PEOPLE WE USUALLY ONLY KNOW AS colourful avatars and screen names. To hang out with new people and get in on in-jokes! I experienced this and much more when I attended ConFuzzled in Birmingham, United Kingdom this year. Right off the bat, the veritable menagerie of colourful fursuiters populating the lobby should have tipped you off that this was going to be a surreal weekend. Many kids staying at the hotel were absolutely enchanted with the fursuiters who were equally delighted at the uninhibited openness of these youngsters. People everywhere wearing tails and ears, T-shirts with their favourite animal motifs and a variety of other accessories that made them uniquely furry.



SUDAN RED

is a full time crazy cat lady who enjoys fighting crime on most weekdays and laughing at GoT memes in her free time.

- 1 - A great time in the Night Club with DJ SilverFoxWolf (@Silverfoxwolven on Twitter) providing the entertainment. The 80's never sounded this good!
- 2 - The sultry vixen, Reyna (owned by @Forfaox on Twitter) posing with Faruku's plucky little Fiat500, Enzo.
- 3 - Arcalis (owned by @Arcalis_Panda on Twitter) getting up to all sorts of mischief at the MotorFurs Meet.
- 4 - Sacred the Bull (owned by @sacredthebull on Twitter) caught at the Hoofers Meet & Greet.
- 5 - Rattig the Rat throwing a very cute head tilt our way.
- 6 - Coco the Corgi (owned by @Wolvinny on Twitter)(on the right) and her buddy, BaileyCorgi (owned by @BaileyCorgi on Twitter)(on the left) showing off their bubble butts.
- 7 - Never underestimate the importance of hydration! Jacky (owned by @JackyDaFox on Twitter) demonstrates the use of the loooong straw.



When the programming and panels started, you were spoilt for choice. Interests of every kind were catered for – artists, crafters, performance artists (fursuiters for the layman!), sub-cultures like bronies and macros/micros, silly gaming events (Werewolf anyone?) and even a lightsaber interest group!

The Dealer's Den was stacked to the rafters with great merchandise. I bemoaned the woeful state of the Rand many a time as I browsed the tables. I bought some tickets for Faruku's Raffle (@FarukuCostumes), AND ACTUALLY WON SOMETHING! Definitely a highlight of the con for me!

The Main Stage hosted spectacular shows! With good production values on all media and a more than adequate stage and sound setup, we were well entertained. Although, with an attendance of 1,451 souls, you had to queue early to get a good seat (#queuecon). Queueing was never boring though! We had great sing-alongs while waiting and very often someone was there with a bluetooth speaker and some great tunes.

Excellent music and lively DJ's made every evening loads of fun when the Night Club started pumping. Tongue-in-cheek classics like "Walk the Dinosaur" had raptors taking center stage, while conga lines and hoe-downs broke out spontaneously at every set.

The charity that ConFuzzled chose to support this year was Prickles Hedgehog Rescue (<http://www.prickleshedgehogrescue.org.uk/>) and the generous furs in attendance donated £21,946 to this very worthy cause! That is a LOT of hedgehog chow!

And I suppose this is the point I would like to make. Furies are a wonderful, diverse, creative bunch of people and they have the biggest hearts I have ever experienced.

I hope to see similar great things happening in South Africa one day! 🐾



WHAT WE LOVED ABOUT Zootopia

will fondly remember 2016, as the year that Disney put out one of their best films: Zootopia. Now normally it's an expectation that anything Pixar works on, is crystal clear in characterization, attention to detail is of the highest order, gorgeous animation and all that, however this time it's definitely a winner. Normally people consider Disney to be a kind of a black sheep in the world of high-tech animation, but this definitely shatters that perception. Here is a list of the most outstanding things we loved about Zootopia.

It tackles modern issues head-on The narrative confronts our present-day moral issues straight up. Racism and prejudice are dealt with in a comical way in such a manner that even kids will understand. It also deals with a growing modern problem- corruption. Do expect that your kids will ask you about this, and that is a great thing, it's the first step to moving away from an admittedly very fractious state of world affairs. It also, directly makes a statement about the expectations held about the modern society, especially our own where the assumption is made that we all live together in harmony. As the lead character Nick Wilde says- "We don't"



RANDALL

whom is also incidentally known as Sonic2k, is the biggest Sonic The Hedgehog fan in the southern hemisphere. He loves all things SEGA/Sonic, Pixar, and furies.

It is eye candy, and definitely a tip of the hat to the furry fandom Children will love the characters immensely, and for furies it offers fresh inspiration. The film, as far as I can tell, is a definite hit amongst all furies. By some small measure I am sure this will lead more people on a path to discovery of animation, and onto the furry fandom. It can stand on its own- by virtue of the fact that it also deals with items mentioned in the previous point, as a non-biased, "clean" introduction to the world of anthropomorphic animals, which as we know is the core of furry fandom.

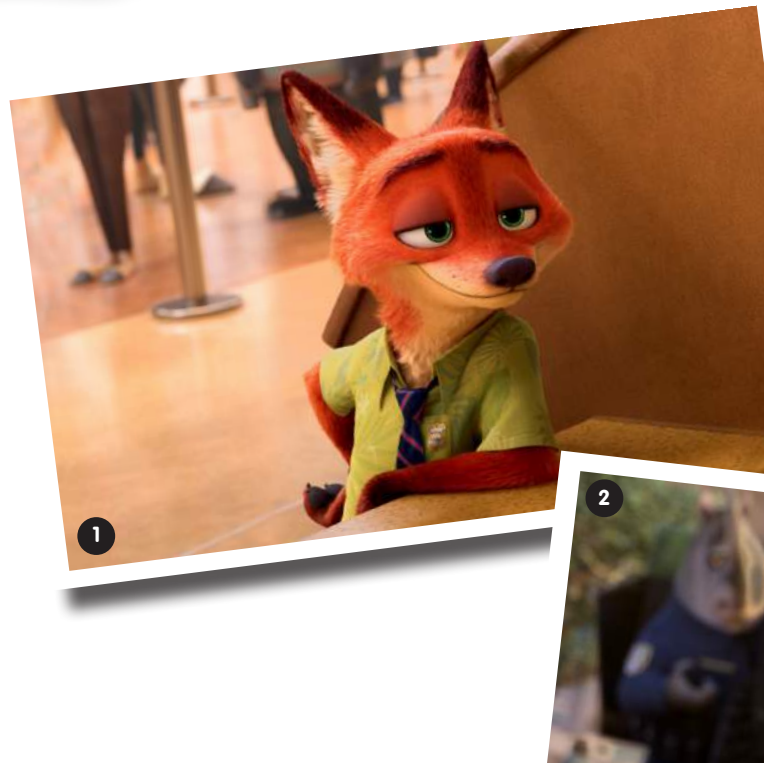
Something for everyone Every one of us can identify with one of the lead characters, it's a film true to the spirit of humanity as a whole, and portrays the struggles each of us face on a daily basis. Whether it is struggling with identity, being taken seriously, or being poor and having to fend for oneself without an education, there's something for every person who watches this film.

Lots of comedy One of the funniest scenes has to be that of the sloths employed in the DMV "Department of Mamillian Vehicles". Everyone who has a vehicle can relate to this. It even finds a way to hilariously tip the hat to films such as "The Godfather" and "China Town".

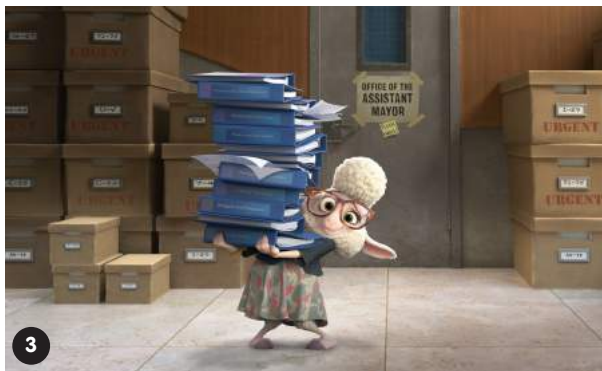
Conclusion If you are going to see only one film this year, make it Zootopia. Take the kids along, your partner, your mom and dad, and have fun. 🐾

CAST OF CHARACTERS

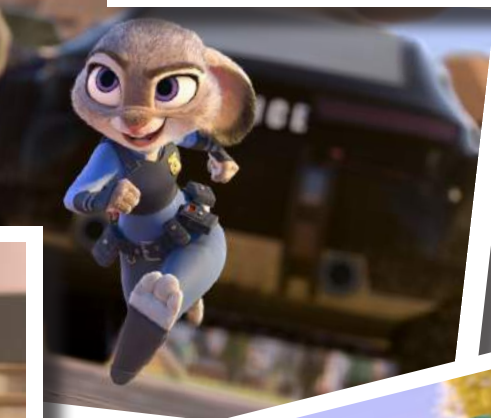
- 1 - Nick Wilde
- 2 - Lt. Judy Hopps
- 3 - Asst. Mayor Bellwether
- 4 - Flash
- 5 - Judy's parents Bonnie and Stu Hopps
- 6 - Mrs. Otterton
- 7 - Officer Clawhauser



“If you are going to see only one film this year, make it Zootopia. Take the kids along, your partner, your mom and dad, and have fun!”

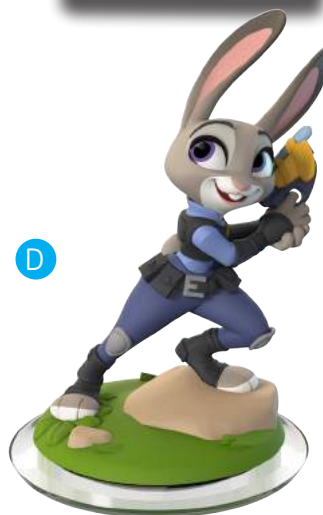


IMAGES COURTESY OF DISNEY/CO. ZA



OH MY HAT, TOYS!!!

EVERY GOOD DISNEY/PIXAR FILM SEES NEW TOYS ON THE MARKET. WE LOOK AT WHAT ZOOTOPIA TOYS ARE AVAILABLE



Unless otherwise indicated, all toys manufactured by TOMY (www.tomy.com)

- A - Nick Wilde Plush Toy
- B - Nick and Finnick Character Pack
- C - Disney Infinity 3.0 Nick Wilde
- D - Disney Infinity 3.0 Judy Hopps
- E - Judy Hopps Large action figure

Stockists:
Toy Kingdom
www.toykingdom.co.za

Toyzone
www.toyzone.co.za

GEEKFEST 2016

The morning was pretty cold. 6am, May 7, 2016. Any other Saturday, I would have pressed the snooze button. But not this day. This day was going to be GREAT!

I quickly checked my phone for any messages. There were a few... Skimming through the unimportant ones, I got ready for the day. I was excited, but nervous all the same. You talk to these people, most of them, every day - but this was my first time meeting them in person. It wasn't my first furmeet - I had met a few furies, but it was the first time meeting so many at once.



ADAGIO LEOPARD is a full time student. Tinkerer at heart he spends his time 3D printing, and building gadgets. In his free time he enjoys writing furry fiction.

"See you soon!" I typed. This filled me with excitement - this was really happening! It was about an hour and a half's drive from my home. And I had to pick up some other people too, but I didn't mind. In no time at all, I pulled into the first driveway. I haven't met this guy before in my life, and the first thing he does is hug me. It was awesome!

Rikkun was one of the first friends I made after meeting Tocs. And we have grown really close since. He was sporting a "shirt" he made himself out of bandages - it was certainly unique! Unfortunately, it got too hot, and he had to ditch it later (luckily he packed another shirt too). It was because of him that I decided to get us all to go. I picked up Honin and his sister too.

Tocs was up next.

I was planning on surprising Tocs with this, but unfortunately things didn't work out that way. Meeting the person that probably saved my life... I don't think I can put it in words...

Geekfest was not far from Tocs' house. I got us lost. Then Rikkun took up navigation, and eventually we got there. The queue of cars to the entrance was scary! We got there at around 10am, but only got a place to park close to 11am. We got a place to park. And soon, we entered the event.

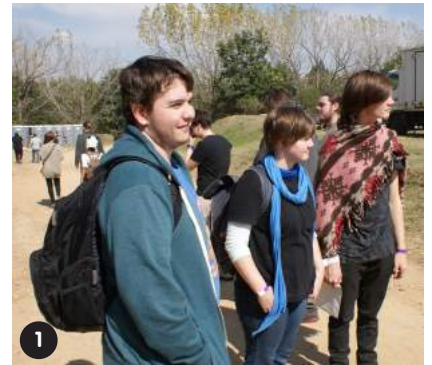
Right at the gate was a guy assaulting a knight with a sword. Fight a knight! One of the many booths we didn't get to visit. There was just too little time to be honest. We got there, and almost everyone went in their own directions.

But I got to chill with someone who is probably the coolest pup in town! (And not just because he bought me ice cream).

We spent the day mostly looking at booths. I got myself some dog tags, with my name and that of my fursona, engraved on them. I now wear them every day to remind me of Geekfest 2016. I got myself a gourmet mutton burger from the Zombie Chefs! It was really good! Although a bit pricey.

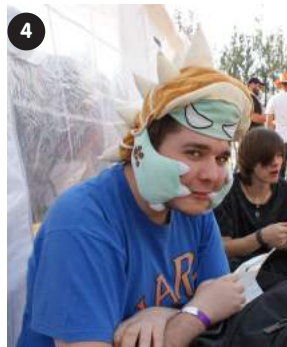
I also got to meet my first fursuiter! Big shout out to YoteFox - his suit is just AMAZING! Hoping to

- 1- Tocs, Honin's sister, Honin
- 2- What it was like on the day at Geekfest
- 3- YoteFox and his handler
- 4- Tocs and Honin
- 5- Rikkun harassing Ivic, Honin tripping him in his poncho, Wolfie-DMX in the background wearing his split hood, and Asbjorn in the red shirt.



“

Thanks guys, for making my day unforgettable!



see him in suit again! I watched in awe as little mechanical machines hacked and raced each other. I've always been fascinated by robots, and this brought back memories of my childhood. Where other furies watched MLP: FIM and Pokémon, I was up all night catching Robot Wars!

I also found out that Huskies and Snow Leopards have a similar kinship to spicy foods - we both sampled and shrugged off their hottest sauces.

We planned on doing the #Escape thing but the waiting list was too long, and by the time we got to the top, we had to sadly leave. If I were to give any newcomers advice I'd say: do yourself a favor. Get weekend tickets! Crash at a friend's place! There is just not

enough time to do everything. But to me, it was amazing! I got to meet my friends. I got to hug my friends for the first time. And boy, were there hugs! After parting ways. I felt empty and alone for a while, but also determined to do this again! Thanks guys! For making my day unforgettable!



BRAAI AT VICTOR'S - 30 JULY

Victor's braai, as announced on the forum, piqued my interest, so I decided to go. It is, amazingly the first time I went to a "proper" furmeet.

In person I am rather a shy type, so I was pretty nervous about going, but since I wanted to get the story, it was essential for me to go. Unfortunately I got there a bit late, so a lot of furs were there already. I will be honest; it's really difficult to go and say hello and "fit right in" to a bunch of folks you chat to on your phone and on the forums but you have never met before in person. I also picked up we are all the same at heart, we're even shy of each other. But as the evening got underway, things got much easier and more lively as more furies arrived.

We were treated to Sonic The Hedgehog (OVA) on Victor's TV in the lounge, and outside many furies were grouped in conversations. Even when I met Tetsudra the first time, it was quite awkward, but what helped was, we all sat down to watch anime, and when that was done it was already dark outside.

By this time a lot of other furs had arrived, and it became one of the biggest furmeets I have ever seen, I am told the final tally was 39 of us, squashed into Victor's small place. And when YoteFox arrived, things seemed to really take on a different pace. Yote got fully suited up, and so did the others who were there that had their fursuits with them. At this time the braai fire was being started, and the cold was setting in, but it didn't stop us from forming a group, where myself, YoteFox, Obsidian, and Tetsudra were discussing this publication and other things.

By 8pm it was plainly obvious the BBQ was too small and wasn't going to cut it despite Victor's best efforts. By then I was freezing to the bone and I needed to attend another engagement.

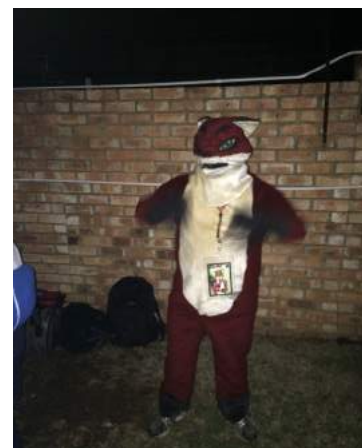
But the warm welcome I received and greetings upon my departure, is what really touched me. That made it worth it, and most likely to attend the next one. It was an immersive experience, I got to meet, in no particular order, Ivic_Wulfe, Tocs, YoteFox, Victor, Obsidian, Iggy Twiggy, and numerous other furs whose fursonas I know but for the life of me I cannot remember the names.

In the end, it became apparent to me that, we are all the same, we share common interests and we all have lots and lots in common. This is probably one of the more fun sides of being a geek, and I would recommend this to anyone. Just, relax, don't be shy and be friendly. Furies don't bite, unless you ask nicely.



RANDALL

whom is also incidentally known as Sonic2k, is the biggest Sonic The Hedgehog fan in the southern hemisphere. He loves all things SEGA/Sonic, Pixar, and furies.



EYLOF WOLF'S ELECTION DAY MINI FURMEET



I decided to arrange an open furmeet on Voting Day (3 August), basically as a nice social get-together after going to vote in the local election. The meet was arranged at the Hollow Oak Tree pub in Durbanville, and I announced it on the ZAFur forums.

The meet started at about 12:30, with Wolfwarlock being first to arrive. We met him there and arranged a big table outside. While we were waiting for furs to arrive I got word that Ozlion needed a lift so I obliged and returned with him. When I got back, Cape_Fox was there to meet us and by then most of the furs had arrived. In all it was ten of us - Cape_Fox, Ivan, Mika, Wolfwarlock, Ozlion, Tactica, Glitch (who arrived a bit later), Totem, myself and Arthur.

We had a few drinks, with Arthur ordering water and me calling him a panzy. We just caught up with how things were going, how everyone was, and mainly had a good time - along with a lot of furry nonsense, of course!

66

I now think we need to have more regular furmeets here.

Lunchtime came, and most of us ordered burgers and chicken schnitzels, but I ordered jalapeno poppers (yum yum burry). Nothing's better than nice poppers and a cold craft beer. As for the venue, it's a really nice place to hang out and I now think we need to have more regular furmeets here. This is the venue, incidentally where I had my second furmeet in August 2014. The meet was great fun, but unfortunately the weather didn't play along, so we had to cut it short. We sat under the oak tree and just had a chat after splitting the bill - nice and relaxing, about everything and nothing.

Overall, it was a great meet. I got a lot of messages afterwards from other furies, telling me how pawsome it was!



FURRY TIMES EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of Furry Times, a newsletter, or magazine, if you will, covering the furry fandom in South Africa. This was one of those GREAT IDEAS™ born on the ZAFUR forums, and it grew from there onwards, much to everyone's surprise I think, including my own.

First off, I'd like to say a very great "thank you" to every furry that helped me to put this together, thanks to Tetsudra from AnthroCulture (anthro.co.za) for the support, thanks to Leeward, thanks to Electrocatt (electropawartworks.com) for the art, and direction and more than anything, thanks to those of you who wrote articles, each and every one of you, many HUGZZZ and high-paw-five.

I am new to the ZAFUR forum, in fact I am one of the newbies, having lived in ignorance for decades that maybe, just maybe, we had furs in South Africa. Turns out I was wrong. And boy, I am glad I was wrong, otherwise I'd have missed this opportunity completely.

Well, this is it, in your hands (or on your screen) you're holding our first foray into media and marketing of the fandom for all its positives and magic. I have big hopes for this publication, and may it go from strength to strength and let's all start on this wonderful journey together. Let's put the somewhat troubled past behind us and move forward and shine into an awesome future.

This is the launch issue, hereafter we will publish every month. Releases will be announced on the official website, as well as the AnthroCulture and Zafur sites on a regular basis. We are putting together a complement of staff to run this project, and content, as well as visual styling will likely change as we get it all figured out. But one thing you can be assured, the magazine (yes we call it that now) will always ROCK, will always inspire you, and most important of all, keep you inspired with news, art, fursuits, cons, game reviews, opinion pieces and so much more.

For those who feel compelled to write, you can mail us at info@furrytimes.co.za, or better still, follow us or tweet us at [@info_squirrel](https://twitter.com/info_squirrel). Don't forget to include your

fursona name, and any other bits and pieces you feel to include. Having an event? A mini-furmeet? Write to us, send us photos, we'd love to show the world how awesome it was, especially as an encouragement to other furs to do the same.

Yours Truly
Randall
A Sonic The Hedgehog Nut!



@info_squirrel



info@furrytimes.co.za



PO BOX 1960
RUIMSIG
1732



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEWSLETTER...

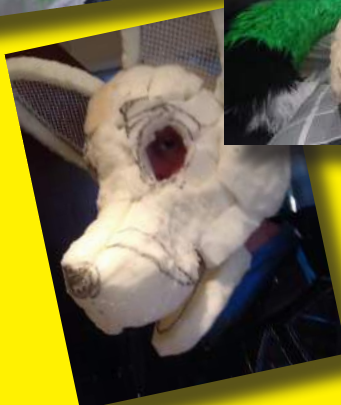
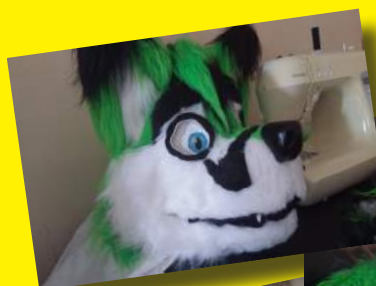
LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENT COVERAGE

For one thing, coverage of events, that is, meets, get-togethers, and so on are pretty important news. We also cover many international conventions, considering many of our local furs travel overseas to attend, bringing back with them a ton of rich experience, stories, and photographs. We also hope that next year we will have a convention in South Africa, that is on an equal footing with CONFUZZLED and others overseas, and that goes without saying, will be covered here, complete with glossy photographs of all the furry goodness!



FURSUIT MAKING AND CRAFT

We have some pretty talented fursuit makers in South Africa, and they will be right here, to teach us all, the secrets of the craft, and how to go from nothing to awesome.



FURRY HUMOUR

EVERY EDITION WE HAVE A FINE COLLECTION OF furry jokes and other bits and pieces to put a smile on your muzzle. Sit back, relax and have a good laugh at these-

FURRY CLASSIFIEDS

Business Venture

Quite Mad and Evil scientist looking for loyal servant or "Business Associate" who must respond to "Egor" and is preferably 1 meter in height with a hunched back. Must have extensive experience in the art of chain pulling, evil laughter and flower arrangement. Flying spider-monkey henchmen need not apply. Contact: Dr. I.M. Eviller Tel: (992) - MWAH-AHAHAA-A (6924-242422-2)

Buying Gold

James' Gold buyers/sellers, we buy and sell gold every day. No matter the amount or place of origin, (James' Gold buyers/sellers are not to be held accountable for any and all stolen, misplaced or illegal gold sales or supplies.) and we beat current market rates by at least 5% guaranteed!!!! SO CALL JAMES NOW Tel: (+112) - ITS BLOODMONEY (421-25663-66663)

Stray Cat to good home

I'm a stray street cat looking for a place to crash for a day or two, I might bring you a dead bird as payment, I might not. Will eat most of your food without saying "thank you", and I will bite your hand if you try to touch me, even if you mean well. I'm already sitting at your house, just forget a window or door open, greetings CAT.

Matters of the heart

Looking for nurse with questionable morals and ethics to help with a botched heart transplant, must have intermit knowledge of the cardiovascular system and be able to hid a body. Some surgical tool cleaning may be required. Willing to pay big money to keep surgeon license. Undercover FBI agents need not apply. Dr Robert +222 IDUNG00FED

Robot for Sale

Brand new assassin robot for sale, build them in my spare time, only killed a man once. Trying to get rid of it due to financial constraints as well as my wife finding out I build murder robots in my spare time when I should be washing the dishes. Comes with full set of owner's manual, service records and I am willing to clear the robot's criminal record for free. Dr Robotnik +179 SONICSUCKS

Ex-president

Man looking for funding to cover field a bill where I was implicated in corruption due to using government funds to fund upgrades to my estate. Need R8mil, and willing to provide presidential favours in exchange for the money. No unsolicited offers to be made. +27 223 INDEKAK



Brutallis

A reformed night-mare from the underworld looking to have a normal life. Enjoys classical music, contrary to popular belief.



IMAGE SOURCE UNKNOWN - RANDOM INTERNET IMAGE



MEME SOURCE UNKNOWN - RANDOM INTERNET IMAGE



© ILLUSTRATION BY SPAMCAT



IMAGE CREDIT - FOX SPORTS / YOUTUBE



COMICS BY SPAMCAT



anthroculture

The ambition behind AnthroCulture is to identify and promote creativity across all spheres - writing, music, art, fursuiting, videos, games and more - as well as to explore what it means to be a furry in South Africa.

AnthroCulture was a long time coming, in retrospect. I first found the fandom back in 2006, and was quickly drawn in by the diversity of creativity, talent and expression. In May 2016, the stars aligned and I was able to attend Confuzzled '16, the largest furry convention in the UK. My time at Confuzzled was absolutely magical, thanks entirely to the community that came together around it. For four solid days, everywhere you looked you saw artists, musicians and suiters, all united around a shared interest - anthropomorphic creatures.



IMAGE CREDIT: Jason Blake @xkardogge



Tetsudra

A black-and-purple dragon hailing from Cape Town, Tetsudra found the fandom in late 2006. He enjoys the creativity and has been trying to give back to the community ever since.



tetsudra.com



@tetsudrag



The South African community may be smaller, but it's no less passionate about the subject. In the few short weeks that AnthroCulture has been around, I've had the privilege of meeting and interviewing several local furs - they've told their stories about how they came into the community, and what it means to them as individuals.



And we're just getting started! More than just being an aggregator of what the local anthro community is up to, another driving force behind AnthroCulture is to promote and grow the culture within South Africa. There are several exciting AnthroCulture projects on the horizon, but I don't want to share too many details just yet ;)

You can find AnthroCulture online at www.anthro.co.za, and across most social media platforms.



anthro.co.za



@anthroculture

G+ AnthroCulture



AnthroCultureZA



anthroculture

FURRY TIMES brings you some perspective from the fandom out there, sometimes whispers we happen to hear, other times, letters, tweets, or messages.

We seem to have lost something important in our society, over the last hundred or so years - the capacity to dream. The average day is filled with news about things getting worse, and the average response is to keep your head down and go about your day.

The fandom runs counter to all that. It's an excuse to be vibrant, and bold - to explore aspects of yourselves and others that you might not even have known about. It's a colourful, expressive rebellion against the slowly-atrophying world we live in.

I love the fandom for that alone - its ability to inspire new ways of thinking that may not have been possible otherwise. To briefly slip the bonds of "normality", and explore a truly fantastic world of our own design.

Kievuu & Will

Werewolves! Technically it's kinda been at the back of my mind as my favourite cartoons, games, and etc always had to do with anthropomorphic animals or just animals in general. Then at one stage I became a huge fan of mythology and pretty much got obsessed with werewolves. Tons of google searches later I found furies, looked into them and pretty much was like "Well this is my life now".

Tocs Turvy

I found friendliness and creativity you wouldn't get anywhere else.

Cape_Fox

I'm here for the company really. And since I've joined I've met a whole lot of nutcases who I can call my friends.

So that's pretty cool.

Neon

Had it not been for the fandom to turn to on a social level after moving up to Gauteng and a variety of other things happening in my life at the time, I'd probably have been a drunk on the streets. I don't necessarily make friends as easily as I'd like when there's no common ground.

I'd have attempted to find my way around the province on a bar by bar basis since it was the only way I knew how to socialize. The fandom brought me hope that there were people I could enjoy being around and it has been delivering in spades. A lot of my life and personal work outside of my work goes into finding a way to connect us as much as possible, to have a South African voice in the throng of North American and European ones. This is mostly because I feel I want to give back to the community what I have inadvertently found within it, purpose and a sense of belonging.

I feel optimistic whenever I do something for the community and feel like I'm achieving in one way or another. My life is one of two halves. I go to work and I'm a lecturer with a purpose to educate the world and this country in whatever way I'm called, however at home I want to connect and help there too. I constantly want to do more and sometimes miss lofty goals I set to achieve in my personal life. But luckily both my job and my personal projects give me enough purpose to continue working for what I wish to achieve and I have the community that we share to thank for that.

Ivic_Wulfe

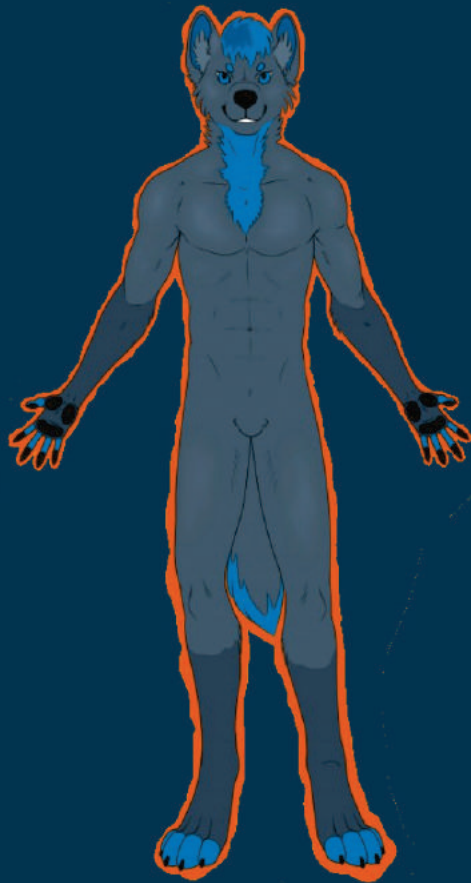
I had an immediate appreciation for the fandom as I had always had an interest and liking for anthropomorphic animals (although I wouldn't even have known what that meant back then).

Asbjorn-phoenix

“
I first found the fandom back in 2006, and was quickly drawn in by the diversity of creativity, talent and expression.”



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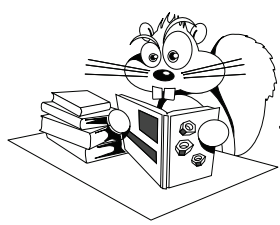
Commissions of Furocity Fox

A new, talented artist has surfaced in the South African furry community, with excellent prices and quality refsheets that will not disappoint!

Go check them out on Furaffinity at:
<http://www.furaffinity.net/user/FurocityOrders>

You can contact Eylof Wolf for any enquiries at:

- * Email: furocityorders@gmail.com
- * Telegram: @Eylof
- * Skype: Eylof.Wolf
- * Kik: Eylof



LITERARY REVIEWS

In this edition, Randall and Brutallis review a rather interesting book together...

I came across a free book entitled **"FurScience! A Summary of Five Years of Research from the International Anthropomorphic Research Project"**. The book is essentially a scientific study of the furry fandom. It is an exceptionally interesting read and is recommended reading for those new to the fandom and those who wonder how and where we come from in terms of the fandom, and more so, for those struggling to understand their need for the furry fandom. The authors conducted a proper research project into the subject over a period of five years with some pretty surprising (and not so surprising) results.

The book confirmed, in my case what I already worked out more or less on my own, but it also mentions how exactly, in my case, my longtime association with the Sonic The Hedgehog fandom is inextricably connected to the furry world in the larger scheme of things. Sonic The Hedgehog, is definitely, as was for me, a gateway into the furry fandom. If you are a numbers fan, the numerous graphs, and data will surely appeal to you, but a lot of explanatory text makes the details clear for those easily bored with numbers or numerous graphs. The research also demonstrates clearly, why



So there are a number of things us furies are known, loved and even loathed for, but one thing that might not be as obvious; furies are science... I'll let that sink in for a second while I bring up the reasoning behind this.

Let us start at the beginning. In and around 2011 a group of actual scientists started a research project that would end up taking 5 years to complete, the findings of which were published in an easy-to-understand format*

They are, and I quote this directly from their website¹

"International Anthropomorphic Research Project (IARP), a multidisciplinary team of scientists studying the furry fandom. Asking psychological, anthropological, and sociological questions, our team examines furry culture to help both furies and non-furies to better understand the furry community."

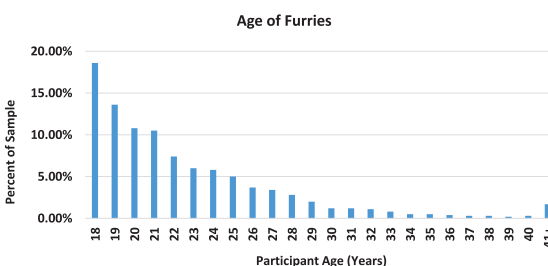
So when I refer to us as being 'Science', I mean that we are scientifically "awesome" enough to warrant a FIVE YEAR STUDY. Once their study was completed, they released their findings in an epic piece of knowledge, "Fur Science!"

Now I'm going to lightly touch on a few interesting statistics that came up with the study and raise an opinion or two. Without further ado, let's dive right in.

This very first thing that was presented was the distribution of age² [Note that this study was done overseas and may not reflect the distribution here in South Africa.]

we for the most part get along and some of us get to be very close to other furs, and what is common amongst us in terms of personality traits and psychology. Every aspect of the furry fandom receives equal treatment in a rigorous, scientific fashion, and it also sheds some light into the reasons why drama, and other problems affect the fandom frequently, it also makes the case that furry drama is a universal problem, not so much a problem just specific to the local furry fandom. The thorny issues of yiff are also tackled in a neutral setting, which I feel contributes to ensuring this study is taken seriously and not dismissed as I dare say, furry propaganda.

The book generally covers the entire lifetime experience of the average furry, from childhood into professional adult life. I would therefore recommend this book as essential reading for parents, family members, and possibly co-workers of people who identify as furry. It puts things neatly into perspective and could prove of value to understanding many issues and misconceptions surrounding the fandom and to understanding your furry son/daughter/wife/ husband/ boyfriend/girlfriend.



The scientists have not provided a possible reason/hypothesis for the decrease in furies as age increases, which is a pity, but I'm guessing that it can be attributed to life getting in the way as it always does.

On the subject of fursuits, who doesn't love them? As you can see in the table below, furies were asked if they owned one of the items and if they wore the item regularly.³

Ownership of Different Furry-Themed Accoutrements		
Item	% of furies who own	% of owners who regularly wear
Ears	27.3	62.6
Tail	48.1	78.0
Paws	25.9	50.2
Head	16.7	47.3
Fursona's Clothing	34.3	82.2
Wings	1.9	26.3
Accessories	36.6	79.8
Partial Fursuit	18.5	72.4
Full Fursuit	13.0	85.4

References

1. <http://furscience.com/who-we-are/>
2. <http://furscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Furscience-Furbook-First-5.pdf> (Page 4)
3. <http://furscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Furscience-Furbook-First-5.pdf> (Page 36)
4. <http://furscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Furscience-Furbook-First-5.pdf> (Page 34)



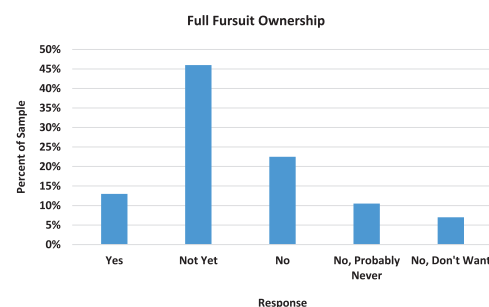
Authors:

Courtney N. Plante
Stephen Reysen
Sharon E. Roberts
Kathleen C. Gerbasi

ISBN: 978-0-9976288-0-7

Publisher: FurScience, Ontario, Canada

As with many a furry who does not own a fursuit or even part of one, in the following graph we see how many of us would like to have one⁴



All and all, the amazing results that were published at the end of their 5 year study is almost as interesting as a normal evening on one of the furry IM chat groups. Fascinating statistics, some hypotheses, graphs and charts that even your missing left sock (he was lost about two years ago, they gave up the search three weeks in, after finding no trace of it. It was a sad time, losing your sock...) could understand them. So, if you have the time, bored out of your skull, eating a really dry muffin or just feel like learning something about furies as a whole, do go over to the Fur Science site and download the book they published [IT IS FREE]

Go out and learn everything from Species Popularity for Fursonas, Relationship Status, Attitudes toward Bronies and much, much more, 162 pages to be exact!



FURRY ARTIST FEATURE

OUR FEATURED ARTIST IN THIS EDITION IS LANCE-VERITY

More of the artist's work can be found here
<http://www.furaffinity.net/user/it-werewolf/>
<http://donotspeakto-me-or-else.deviantart.com/>

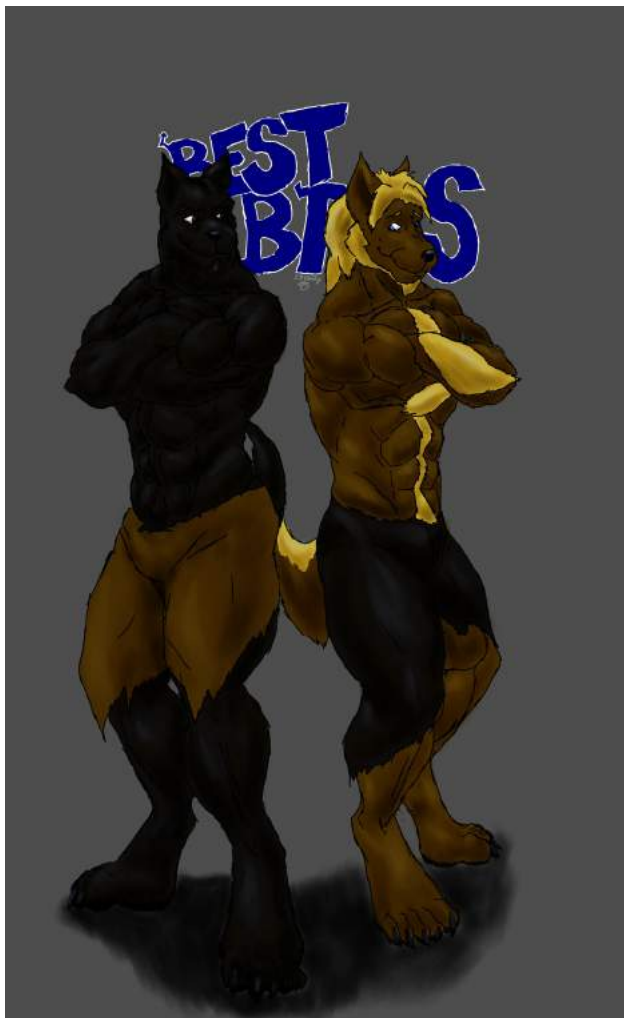


IMAGE CREDITS

1. Tetsudra (Hilton Metropole Lounge)
2. Tetsudra (Confuzzled Dealer's Den)
3. Suits by Adele Waldrom (🐦@AW_Runaway)
4. Tetsudra (Hilton Metropole Lobby)
5. Tetsudra (Confuzzled Social Room)
6. Jason Blake (🐦@riverdogge)

What the Fur?



Tetsudra's been in the fandom since 2006, and reports from the frontlines of this fuzzy phenomenon

There's a good chance you've already heard something about the furry fandom, and it probably wasn't a very complete picture. Popular media, being driven by the need to build audiences and drive their own brands, often don't do a good job of accurately representing nuanced topics.

Which is why you're holding a publication specifically designed to tell the story of furies, by furies.

So who are furies? What possesses otherwise-normal people to dress up in animal costumes? Aren't these just socially-awkward nerds? Is it safe for kids? There's a lot of questions, and even more opinions, so consider this an introduction to the subject.

Anthropomorphism (Anthro for short)



Your new word of the day! Anthropomorphism is actually a basic component of human psychology that we all share - the attribution of human traits, emotions and intentions to non-human entities.

Ever looked at the headlights on a car and thought it looked angry? Ever thought your dog looked happy? Ever enjoyed a cartoon or movie that featured an animal person? Those are all basic examples of anthropomorphism - it's everywhere, and it's been with us since the earliest paintings were done in caves by prehistoric man.

Anthro takes on a slightly more specific meaning within the furry fandom, which is predominantly the attribution of human traits to cartoon animals.

While the ultimate version of this (people stomping around in fursuits) might seem extreme, it's just a natural progression of a trait we all share. Even normal, well-adjusted adults today might have once dreamed of being a dinosaur when they were a child. Furies simply have the creative energy and the inspiration to realize that dream.

Different things... to different people



The furry fandom is unique in that it's not built around consumer media. Almost every other fan club you've seen is built around a subject, topic or work of art - Harry Potter fans, Doctor Who fans, Star Wars fans.

There are people that get heavily invested in the mythology of a given work, choosing to actively demonstrate their interest and passion for it. And that's great!

What makes the furry fandom special is that there is no one central topic, or subject - instead, the fandom itself is a natural consequence of creativity, introspection, and freedom of expression. There are no "leaders", no authoritative culture, and nearly no rules on what it means to be a furry.

There are a few common traits though, which most (but not all) individuals who identify as "furry" will adopt.

Characters



The first and most visible thing is the relative lack of human names and faces in the fandom. Almost everyone that participates will create a character (or avatar) to represent themselves.

This is not unique to the furry fandom - people have interacted behind pseudonyms for years. Furies generally take it a few steps further though, investing real time and effort into designing characters that either represent themselves, their interests, or their aspirations.

When you're talking to a furry, be it a wolf, dragon, fox, or some other mythical creature, chances are you're talking to a more authentic, more internally-consistent representation of a person, than if you were talking to that person face-to-face. Furry affords people the opportunity to reinvent themselves in a format that makes the most sense to them, and (happily) that mainly takes the form of cartoonish characters.

Inclusion and Escapism



Furies come from all walks of life. Most are creative to some extent - visual arts, writing, music, and more - but a good portion are simply participants. Furies exist across all religions, all genders (and gender identities), all socioeconomic strata, and all come to the fandom for different reasons, united by the same interest: anthropomorphic creatures.

Some furies enjoy simply gathering anthro media, some others will create and participate, yet others will invest great amounts of time and money to craft fursuits that let them inhabit anthro characters in the real world.

This is generally considered escapism, which itself is a common feature of human life. Everyone escapes from the pressures of the real world - some into their relationships, some into travel, some into hobbies or projects. Everyone needs a reprieve from harsh reality, and for those of us in the fandom, we've built a world where we get to be anything we like, and find people that feel the same way we do.

Roleplay



Naturally following the concept of Characters, is the concept of Roleplay. Roleplaying is something most of us did as children - a natural, healthy way to explore the world, your friendships, and yourself. Roleplay allows you to temporarily inhabit a version of yourself that you might think of as better, stronger, or more interesting, and is the best way to learn more about who you are inside, and who you might be under different circumstances.

To furies, roleplaying is an innate part of the culture. We get to be human in the real world, so in this world, we're dragons, or foxes, or gryphons - representations that are far more interesting, and far more personal, simply let out to play with the other animal people.

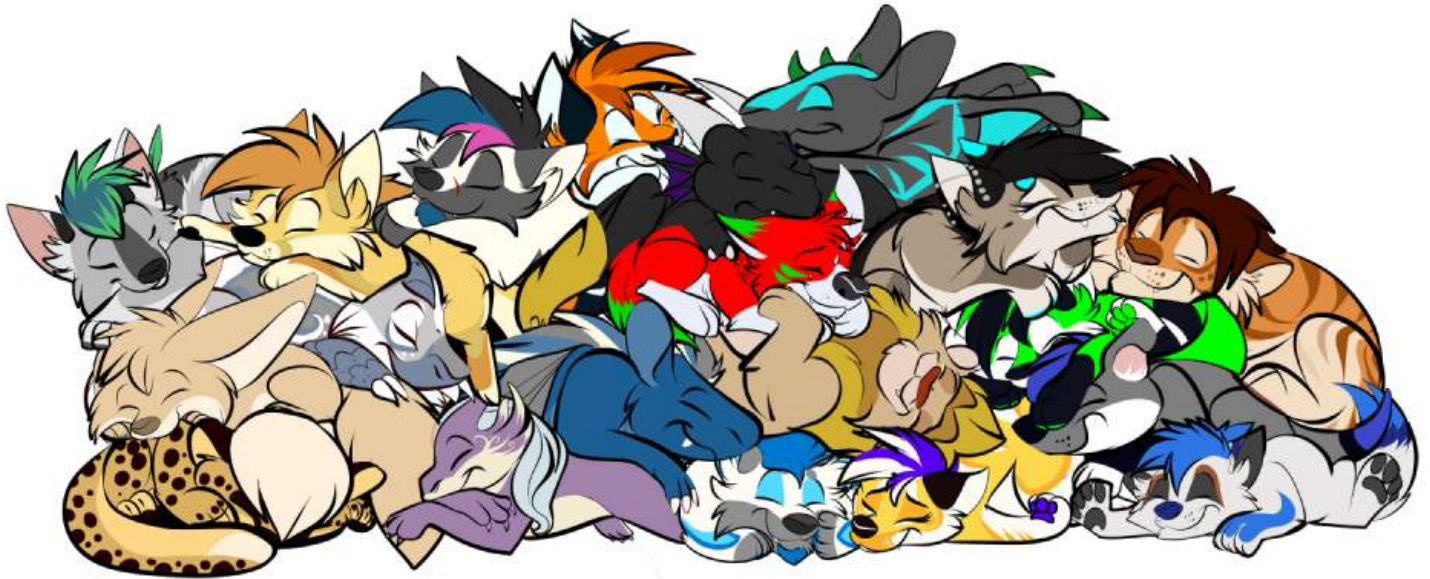
Waiting for you!



The fandom in its current form really got its start around the 1900's, and came into popular force in the 1980s, with the release of films that featured anthropomorphic lead characters. The most famous (and familiar) historical example of anthropomorphic creatures in art might be George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

The fandom, being a mainly internet-driven phenomenon, exists pretty much all around the world. In most countries you go to, you're likely to find a few furs. The largest and most public communities exist in the USA and across Europe, but there are furs in China, Japan, Australia, South America, and even right here, in South Africa.

If you want to learn more about the local fandom - and are interested in participating in the community - swing on by to the main AnthroCulture website at www.anthro.co.za



GENERAL FURRY VIEW



ANTHROCULTURE GOALS



MAKE THE WORLD BETTER, FLUFFS.

SONIC BOOM - FIRE AND ICE

Reviewed by Randall

Following the mostly unsuccessful titles in the Sonic Boom franchise, the next title has been announced for Nintendo exclusive platforms- **Sonic Boom - Fire & Ice**, to be released in the US this month.

According to official sources, the developers have learned from the failures of the previous titles (again, epic marketing fail) and have sought to improve the overall game play i.e. smaller exploratory worlds, amongst other notable improvements.

As someone who has played Shattered Crystal, I sincerely hope they get it right, because the previous two games were, in a word, utter garbage!

The Plot

According to Wikipedia, this game starts off with Dr. Eggman, discovering an element known as Ragnium, starts to harness it for himself- using it to create robots that can allegedly outrun Sonic and his friends while also damaging the environment in the process. Meanwhile, D-Fekt, a rejected robot Eggman created to search for Ragnium, starts using his magnetic powers to try to become more powerful. Sonic and his friends attempt to stop Eggman and D-Fekt and restore balance to the environment.

Gameplay

Apparently, Fire & Ice is a side-scrolling platform game in which Sonic and his companions fight their way through various stages, as was the case with the previous two games. In addition to Sonic, Tails, Knuckles and Sticks, Amy has been added as a playable character. Players can switch between characters at will in order to use their unique abilities such as Sonic's speed, Tails' flight, Knuckles' strength, Sticks' boomerang and Amy's hammer. A unique feature in this game is the addition of fire and ice elements, which apply both to the level environments and character abilities.

Verdict

I haven't yet played this game (due to availability) but, if I have to go on my experience with the previous two, and what I have seen of it online I still stand by my statement that SEGA CORPORATION is in deep trouble!



RELEASE DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2016

PLATFORM: NINTENDO 3DS

More Information: sonicthehedgehog.com

Rating: TBA

NOTE: RELEASE DATE NOT GUARANTEED AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE- OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THAT OF THE GAME REVIEWER AND NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF FURRY TIMES OR THE PUBLISHER. E&OE



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THE TEAM

EDITOR **RANDALL** (aka) Sonic2k

CONTRIBUTORS

SUDAN RED
BRUTALLIS
ADAGIO
EYLOF WOLF
TETSUDRA
EC TIGER

LAYOUT AND DESIGN **RANDALL**
COPY CHECK **RANDALL, TETSUDRA**

DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION PARTNER **ISSUU.COM**

CONTACTS

EMAIL info@furrytimes.co.za

TWITTER [@info_squirrel](https://twitter.com/info_squirrel)

WEB furrytimes.co.za

PUBLISHER: JASON MITCHELL
POSTAL ADDRESS PO BOX 1960, RUIMSIG, 1732
OFFICE +27 87 980 3373

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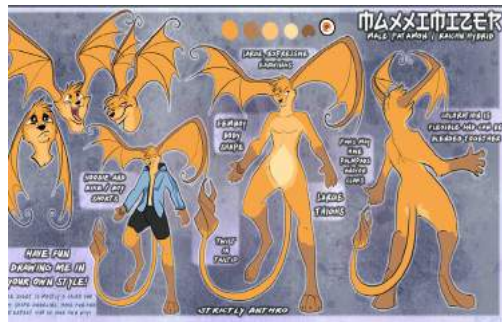
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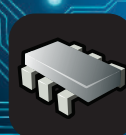
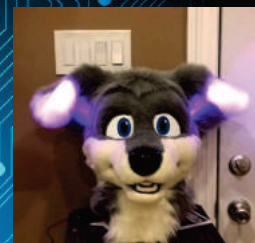
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